

Message Text

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: APRIL 6 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 133RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
ON APRIL 6, CHAIRED BY UK REP (BOLLAND), BELGIAN REP
(SMOLDEREN) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. SMOLDEREN'S
PRESENTATION FOCUSED ON THE COMMITMENTS THAT WESTERN
DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, OTHER THAN THE US, WERE PREPARED
TO UNDERTAKE IN PHASE I REGARDING THEIR PARTICIPATION
IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE BELGIAN
STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE US
HAVE INDICATED THE CLEAR AND ADEQAUTE COMMITMENTS,
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OF A KIND CONSISTENT WITH PHASED NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH
THEY ARE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE IN PHASE I REGARDING
THEIR REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II.

2. WESTERN REDUCTION PROPOSALS TAKEN TOGETHER
WITH THE DATA TABLED ON WESTERN FORCES GIVE A CLEAR
INDICATION OF THE SCOPE OF WESTERN REDUCTIONS IN BOTH

THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES.

3. WESTERN UNWILLINGNESS TO SPECIFY NOW THEIR PHASE II REDUCTIONS ON A NATIONAL BASIS, AS THE EAST HAS ASKED, IS CONSISTENT WITH THE WEST'S REQUIREMENT FOR COLLECTIVE CEILINGS.

4. THE EAST COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THESE TALKS BY ACCEPTING THIS CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVE CEILINGS.

5. THE WEST HAS ASSURED THE EAST THAT ALL NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS, AND THAT SUCH REDUCTIONS WILL FOCUS ON THE FORCES OF THESE PARTICIPANTS.

6. SINCE THE WEST HAS PRESSED FOR THE COMMON CEILING, IT IS ONLY LOGICAL THAT IT WILL ACT IN PHASE II SO AS TO SECURE ITS ATTAINMENT.

7. EASTERN REPROACHES THAT THE WEST HAS NOT SAID WHEN PHASE II REDUCTIONS WILL OCCUR ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE NOW AGREED POINT THAT THE MODALITIES OF SECOND PHASE REDUCTIONS -- LOGICALLY INCLUDING TIMING -- REMAIN TO BE AGREED IN SECOND PHASE NEGOTIATIONS.

8. AS HAS OCCURRED IN MANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, THE WEST HAS OFFERED A COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH TOWARD AN AGREED OBJECTIVE

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BEGINNING AT A CERTAIN TIME, BUT HAS REFUSED TO UNDERTAKE COMMITMENTS WHICH PREJUDGE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

9. THE WEST HAS SAID THAT PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN WITHIN AN AGREED FIXED PERIOD OF TIME AFTER THE SIGNATURE OF A PHASE I AGREEMENT.

10. THE WEST HAS ALSO OFFERED TO INCLUDE A PROVISION IN A PHASE I AGREEMENT FOR A REVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF THAT AGREEMENT AS WELL AS OF THE STATUS OF PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS, THEREBY ENABLING PARTICIPANTS TO DRAW THE APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS.

11. IN ADDITION, THE WEST HAS PROPOSED AN OVERALL LIMITATION OF A FIXED DURATION ON MANPOWER BETWEEN THE TWO PHASES WHICH WOULD BE LINKED TO A FIRST AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS AND THUS ACCORD WITH THE AGREED AIMS OF THESE TALKS.

12. DESPITE EASTERN CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY, THE KIND OF COMMITMENTS THE EAST IS SEEKING REGARDING PHASE II REDUCTIONS WOULD IN PRACTICE REQUIRE THE WEST TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH -- AN APPROACH WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO WESTERN SECURITY.

13. AS IT IS, ALL WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR READINESS TO ACCEPT A RANGE OF POLITICALLY AND LEGALLY IMPORTANT COMMITMENTS IN PHASE I REGARDING THEIR PHASE II REDUCTIONS -- A FACT WHICH THE EAST SHOULD RECOGNIZE. RESOR

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